**C Japanese Festival**

**Introduction**

Hello! We are going to introduce some Japanese Festivals. There are many kinds of festivals in Japan. The main one which I would like to talk about is YAMAKASA. YAMAKASA is the most popular festival in Fukuoka, our city. The event goes back to the 13th century. It first began as way of praying to remove plague from the city. This festival is held every summer. This year, it was held between July first to July 15th.

**Yamakasa**

Next I’ll talk about customs of Yamakasa. The first custom is Kyuuritati, Kyuuri means cucumber. In the period of Yamakasa people in Hakata don’t eat cucumber. Can you guess why?　The reason is that the symbol of Yamakasa looks like a slice of a cucumber. The next custom is Ikioimizu. When people carry Mikoshi (Portable shrine) on their shoulder, their mind and body are very hot. So some men shower water over people carrying the mikoshi to reduce their body temperature.　It is called Ikioimizu. The thied custom is Hakata-teippon. In the period of Yamakasa, hakata people have many meetings to discuss the plan of Yamakasa. When they reach agreements, they clap their hands like this. It means “we don’t have argument anymore.” It is a good way to unite their spirits for the festival.

**OIYAMA**

Oiyama is the most remarkable event in YAMAKASA. They shoulder their MIKOSI (Portable shrine) and run five kilometers. The fastest team wins the first prize. All of us audience watch them on the streets and get so excited. Look at this picture. These sticks which the guys have are called TEPPOU. They use it to lead MIKOSHI.

**KAZARIYAMA**

Kazariyama (Decorated portable shrine) is what people walking in the street can see during the period of Yamakasa. As you see in the left picture, there is a demon on it. It is breathing out smoke from the mouth. In the right picture, they have DORAEMON. DORAEMON is a Japanese children’s favorite cartoon character who can use magic.

**Happi**

Yamakasa’s traditional dress is happi and shimekomi. Happi is different in each area, we can enjoy the differences. Happi has two types. That is Mizuhappi and Toubannhappi. Let me introduce each part of the name. Your left side picture is Mizuhappi.　Mizuhappi is the clothes we put on the day of Yamakasa. Because everyone splash water on people, it called Mizuhappi. Mizu means water in Japanese. Your right side picture is Toubannhappi. This is a formal clothes of Yamakasa. Children can put on Happi.

**Watagashi**

So much for Yamakasa. Now go to the Japanese other local festivals. We have many festivals in each area. WATAGASHI (cotton candy in English) is a standard item in summer festival. Not only childrem but also adults are fascinated with its sweet and soft touch. When you buy one, the shopkeeper winds the sugar on a chopstick.

**YAKISOBA**

There are many kinds of booths in Japanese festivals. Among them Yakisoba’s booths are always popular. This is Yakisoba. It looks like spaghetti, but it tastes soy-sauce flavor. It looks delicious, isn’t it? August and September, we have a lot of festivals in Japan.

**Mask**

A variety of Masks are sold in the festivals in Japan. The price of mask is about 1 dollar, up to 10 dolalrs. Though it is a little expensive, many children want to buy one of some of them.

**Yoyo-turi**

Next I’ll talk about Yo-yo. Children like yo-yo all over the world. In Japanese festival, we use Koyori (a string of paper) to get yo-yo. If koyori breaks in the process, you can’t get Yo-yo. Nowadays there are so many beautiful Yo-yos. Super Yo-yo, or hyper Yo-yo. So if you have a chance to play it, get a beautiful yo-yo.

**Kingyo-sukui**

Next I’ll talk about Kingyoturi. Kingyo mean goldfish. Kinngyoturi is the most famous and popular game in festival. First you receive Poi. Poi is a tool to scoop up the gold fish. This is made of paper, so it tears easily. If your Poi tears and goldfish escapes, you can’t get any fish. But if you can get goldfish, you can take them back home.